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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 L-03 HA-05 H-01
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /037 W
----------108417 261804Z /45
R 251505Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3111

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN CPRS MORG EG US
SUBJECT: AMERICAN MISSION REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) CAIRO 7391, (B) STATE 79324, (C) CAIRO 9777

1. AMERICAN MISSION LIAISON OFFICER, DR. JOHN G. LORIMER, CALLED AUGUST 25 TO BRING US UP TO DATE ON STATUS OF AMERICAN MISSION CLAIM. AS INDICATED REFTELS, ONLY STICKING POINT REMAINS THE EVACUATION OF EGYPTIAN ARMY FROM MILITARY HOSPITAL IN ASSIUT. LORIMER SAID HE PERSONALLY HAD RAISED THE ISSUE WITH THE COMMANDING OFFICER IN ASSIUT BUT THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

2. ACCORDINGLY, LORIMER SAID HE INTENDED TO DRAFT A LETTER TO DR. DEWIDAR (WITH A COPY TO THE EMBASSY) RAISING ISSUE AND REQUESTING DEWIDAR TO PUT HIM IN CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE CIVILIAN OR MILITARY AUTHORITIES WHO COULD HELP RESOLVE ISSUE. LORIMER SAID PENDING ANSWER FROM DEWIDAR, HE HAS NOT YET SEEN OFFICIALS ABOVE THE LOCAL LEVEL IN EGYPTIAN ARMY OR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

3. LORIMER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE MAIN REASON THE CHURCH WANTS THE PROPERTY BACK IS TO SELL IT. HE SAID AMERICAN MISSION IS NOT INTERESTED IN RETAINING THE BUILDING, AND
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IN FACT WOULD DEMOLISH IT. LORIMER ADDED THAT THE CHURCH MIGHT CONSIDER SELLING THE PROPERTY TO THE ARMY, BUT HE WISHES TO PURSUE FURTHER THE MATTER OF PROPERTY'S RETURN WITH DEWIDAR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

4. COMMENT: THIS MATTER HAS NOT PROGRESSED VERY FAR SINCE LORIMER LAST RAISED IT WITH EMBASSY IN MARCH

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(REFTELS). HOWEVER, LORIMER IS DOING THE RIGHT THINGS AND IS IN NO RUSH.(HE HAS 30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE WITH THE PACE OF THE EGYPTIAN BUREAUCRACY.) POLCOUNS EMPHASIZED TO HIM OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP IF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. DEWIDAR, AND THEREAFTER POSSIBLY SENIOR ARMY OR DEFENSE OFFICIALS, ARE NOT PRODUCTIVE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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